



Special points of interest:

- Greetings — Robie Cagle
- Mini Exhibit — Kelly Finnegan
- News & Views—TBA
- Coin Quiz — Larry Kimura
- Refreshments — Rita Torres & Pat Holcombe
- Spotlight – TBA

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello all!

Hello all! I hope you've enjoyed a beautiful March. It is nice to see Spring here and all the colors as everything enjoys a rebirth. I am always amazed at how time flies, faster with each passing year. The time has gone by so fast this month but I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming meeting.

I recently accepted a position with Majestic Coins and am loving it. I have wanted to do this for some time. I am learning a great deal, more than I thought I previously knew and it is a great experience. You'll have to come in and say hello.

Remember that we are voting on a medal selection this month so I encourage everyone to bring in a design, who

knows - you could be the winner this year. Remember all those who participate in providing designs for our medal automatically will receive an extra ticket for our Christmas drawing. So I am looking forward to seeing lots of designs from everyone.

In addition to our medal selection we are having a Bourse this month. Please come prepared to sell, buy, trade and have a wonderful time. This is a fascinating hobby and I am certainly pleased to know all of you and to share time with you and get to know you better every month.

I welcome you all and encourage everyone to embrace our new members and help them get involved in the



club and excited regarding the UNS and the hobby they love. If you know a member who has not been coming, please encourage them to come if they are able as we do miss those who have not been amongst us and want to be able to enjoy their company and share our hobby with them.

April is the last month you will receive a Mint Master if you have not paid your dues. If you have not paid your dues [please come prepared to do so so that you do not experience a lapse in receiving it.

See you all at the meeting!

Robie Cagle
President.

April's PROGRAM— Bourse Night/ UNS Medal Voting

With April we have our first bourse night of the year. Now is the time for each of you to become a dealer for a night.

Also, be prepared to be a coin designer and bring your drawing(s) for what you think would make a good medal for the UNS for 2014.



FEATURE ARTICLE - Rarity Scales

Sheldon Scale

R.1	Common	over 1000
R.2	Slightly Uncommon	500 to 1000
R.3	Scarce	201 to 500
R.4	Very Scarce	81 to 200
R.5	Rare	31 to 80
R.6	Very Rare	13 to 30
R.7	Extremely Rare	4 to 12
R.8	Unique or nearly so	1 to 3

10 Point Rarity Scale

R-1	Over 5000 known
R-2	2001-5000 known
R-3	501-2000 known
R-4	201-500 known
R-5	76-200 known
R-6	21-75 known
R-7	11-20 known
R-8	5-10 known
R-9	2-4 known
R-10	1 known (unique)



Verbal Rarity Scale

Extremely Rare	5-20 pieces known
Very Rare	21-50 pieces known
Rare	51 to 250 pieces known
Very Scarce	251 to 500 pieces known
Scarce	501 to 1500 pieces known
No Rarity Indicated	more than 1500 pieces known

Universal Rarity Scale / Bowers

Universal Rarity Scale-0 = None

URS-1	= 1 known, unique
URS-2	= 2 known
URS-3	= 3 or 4
URS-4	= 5 to 8
URS-5	= 9 to 16
URS-6	= 7 to 32
URS-7	= 33 to 64
URS-8	= 65 to 124
URS-9	= 125 to 249
URS-10	= 250 to 499
URS-11	= 500 to 999
URS-12	= 1,000 to 1,999
URS-13	= 2,000 to 3,999
URS-14	= 4,000 to 7,999

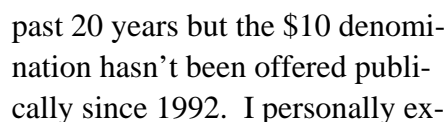


There are many terms and grades for coins in today's market. Most of us are very familiar with the verbal terms such as Common, Rare, Scarce as these terms have been used almost as long as there have been coin collectors. However, someone's definition of Rare may be another's definition of Scarce. In other words just what constitutes a coin being called scarce? Many may refer to a 1909-SVDB Lincoln cent as rare but realistically with 484,000 minted and at least a hundred thousand survivors available today this coin is anything but rare. Desirable, yes, expensive, yes, in demand by anyone who collects Lincoln cents yes, but rare, definitely not. As you can see from the 'Verbal Rarity Scale' the 1909-SVDB wouldn't even make it on the list. The first specific rarity scale developed was created by Dr. Sheldon who wrote his book on Large Cents and created his R.1 to R.8 scale to apply initially only for Large Cents but has since been widely accepted and applied to virtually any rare or scarce coin in America. It is still used extensively and is referred to for the majority of scarce coins by the major auction houses today. Again, anything with an estimated survival number exceeding 1,000 is considered common. Sorry your 1909-SVDB cent still doesn't make the list. Next up is the "10 Point Rarity Scale." This is a much more modern development and for some reason is usually used for only specific

coins or currency. If you pay attention to the rarity of an item you are contemplating purchasing just be aware that a R.6 on the Sheldon scale is Very Rare with 13 to 30 known but on this 10-Point scale the same R-6 item is estimated to have a survival of 21-75 known. Therefore the high end difference is 30 vs. 75 which on the Sheldon scale would move it from the Very Rare category to the Rare category. This will definitely change the value of the coin. Finally, Bowers developed the URS or Universal Rarity Scale not too many years ago. His theory is that this scale more accurately depicts the true rarity of a coin based upon a logarithmic scale beginning with URS-1 being unique (not forgetting a URS-0 indicates no known examples) and moving all the way to URS-14 indicating a surviving census of 7,999 examples. Anything with a surviving census 8,000 or above is not mentionable. Now of course no one has ever done an exact count of how many coins actually survive but all these scales are based on the best educated guess of many experts over decades of research. Even coins with a known surviving count of just a few coins are subject to change. Just recently the 4th example of the 1853-O No Arrows Half dollar was discovered moving it from R.8 to R.7 on the Sheldon scale. Just remember, nothing is etched in granite especially rarity scales as they refer to numismatics.

Doug Nyholm

For those of you that follow auctions and are interested in great rarities especially Mormon Gold the April Central States event hosted by Heritage is close to a once in a lifetime event. Not only are there nine specimens of Mormon gold being offered but of these nine coins there is a complete 6-coin denomination set including the very rare \$10 denomination. The



two rarest denominations including the \$20 are pictured to the right. Occasionally a \$20 coin is offered, and I state that very conservatively as only a few pieces have been offered in the

pect that this \$10 should easily exceed half a million dollars and could possibly near the million dollar mark. In any event it will most certainly set the record for any piece of coinage or currency issued by the Mormons. I am aware of one other piece which sold privately in Salt Lake in 2006 for \$175k which I believe even at that time was a bargain. It was raw with a grade of VF. As with several territorial gold coins 'grade deflation' has been known to affect the slabbed grade and I believe that both the \$10 and \$20 offered here may have been subject to that but with coins of this caliber the certified grade is commonly ignored. After all, with a population of 12-15 coins extant and an example being offered once every 15 or 20 years the buyer will probably not wait hoping that a finer coin will surface or be offered for auction anytime soon. For more information visit the Heritage web page for more extensive write ups on this fantastic collection.

Doug Nyholm



2014

January	February	March
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29
April	May	June
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
July	August	September
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
October	November	December
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

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Cast Fake - Notice the poor quality surface with what appear to be bubbles. Also common is a seam on the edge.



Electrotypes - These can be very deceptive. The surface can appear quite clean.



Tooling - Usually detectable with a good loop and knowledge of the coin. Bronze coins are harder to detect as silver and gold coins which have been tooled will usually have odd looking patina from the removal of metal.

COUNTERFEIT CORNER - Basic Primer for Detecting Fake Ancient Coins

I am far from an expert in detecting fake ancient coins however there are probably just as many counterfeit ancient coins as there are modern coins. There are four major types of processes used to create fake ancient coins.

1. **Casting**—The process of creating a mould from an original coin and pouring molten metal into the mould. Detection—Bubbly surface with a seam on the edge is common
2. **Electrotyping**—Similar to casting but the difference being the metal is electroplated onto the mould surfaces. Detection—These are done in two pieces and are physically seamed together. The seam is many times present as well as the weight may be off.
3. **Die Sinking**—The process where a new die is created. This can be done by cutting a new die or

impressing the image of a real coin into a die. This is probably more common on ancient coins than modern coins. Detection—Can be very dangerous. Usually one defect is present but may require authentication by an expert.



Doug Nyholm

Die Struck- Can be very deceptive. Usually will have one or more defects. May require an expert to authenticate.

Baseball Commemorative Coins On Sale March 27

The long awaited Baseball commemorative coins will be on sale by the time you receive this Mint Master. All three denominations, the \$5 gold, Silver Dollar and clad Half Dollar share a common concave baseball glove and are sure to be popular.



April's Quiz (April Fools?)

How Things Have Changed.

Prices from the 1st Redbook circa 1947



- Regarding Buffalo nickels. Which date in Unc. was the most valuable in 1947?
 - 1917-S
 - 1918-D
 - 1927-S
 - 1926-S
- Which Morgan Dollar held the price record in BU in the year 1947?
 - 1903-O
 - 1893-S
 - 1895
 - 1884-S
- Walking Liberty half dollars pricing and rarity have changed. Which coin held the price record in BU for 1947?
 - 1919-S
 - 1917-S on Obv
 - 1921
 - 1921-S
- The lesser collected Shield Nickel series also had some unexpected prices in 1947. Which coin held top honors?
 - 1867 Rays
 - 1866
 - 1881
 - 1871
- Finally, \$20 Saints had many radical price differences from today's values? Which date was the highest priced?
 - 1921
 - 1926-D
 - 1930-S
 - 1931-D

BEGINNING WITH THIS ISSUE THE ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ CAN BE FOUND ON THE LAST PAGE.



1851-O Silver Dollar (note the very weak mintmark)



1931 Liberty Standing Quarter. Rumored to exist but none known. Struck by a private mint.



1936-S/29 Mercury Dime. Controversial but listed in the Cherry Pickers Bible

Last month's three coins pictured above have the answer included in the boxes. They are all very obscure items and each has an interesting story. Got one—Your pretty sharp Got two— I think you're an expert. Got all three—You can consider yourself 'World Class.' How many did you get right?

March's Answers

1. B. \$349,000 2. 1794 Silver Dollar \$10 Million 3. All Except the 1955 Cent. It is a Double Die not a Double Date 4. 1945 Dime. All the others were struck in two different types for the year. 5. Mercury Dime. All others were struck in two or more different metallic compositions.



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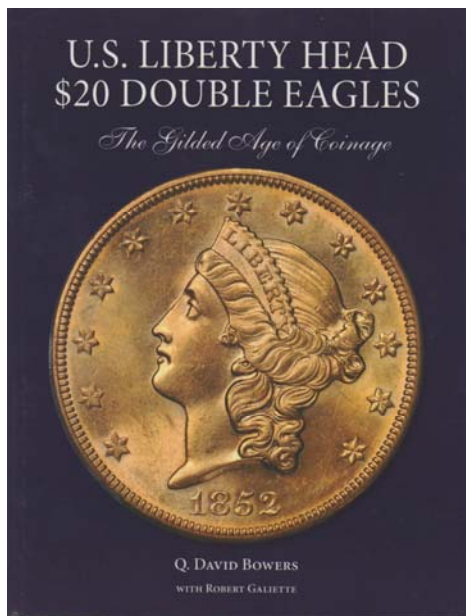
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BOOK REVIEW — U.S. Liberty Head \$20 Double Eagles



Q. David Bowers has done it again. This very prolific author has published a book that I believe is one of his best. Entitled **"U.S. Liberty Head \$20 Double Eagles / The Gilded Age of Coinage"** this book covers the history of the our country through the years of the Liberty

Head \$20's dated from 1849-1907. This book is NOT a year by year, mint by mint analysis of double eagles with price lists in every common grade and values listed. There are many other books covering this data while this book covers each year they were minted and the events both covering historically significant events which not only

that affected the Liberty Head Double Eagle, but also the events which occurred during the year. For example, lets take the year 1860. The chapter is entitled '1860 A Devisive Election.' The sub-paragraphs include 'The Presidential Election,' 'After Lincoln's Victory,' 'Money and Minting,' 'Gold and Silver in The West.' 'The Numismatic scene,' 'Other News of 1860.' In addition to the above paragraphs each chapter, and for that matter the entire book is profusely illustrated with pictures, events, drawings, ads, and maps which are related to the year is discussion. Each chapter has pictured at least one example/mint of a double eagle minted for that year with many chapters depicting a beautiful full page picture for each the obverse and reverse of the Liberty Head double

eagle. The book is printed on high gloss quality paper in full color and is truly a beautiful book you will have a hard time setting down. Reading each of the chapters is a mini-course in U.S. history and you will come away with a much expanded knowledge of history during the years 1849-1907. The book consists of 361 pages in 8 1/2 x 11 format and is definitely a book you will want to read cover to cover and not just look at the pictures and then put it on your bookshelf. The price for this quality of book is also reasonable at \$49 plus shipping directly from Stacks. Even if you don't own a single \$20 Liberty I can't imagine anyone who enjoys history and U.S. Coinage not appreciating this book. I highly Recommend this book.

Doug Nyholm

\$100 Bill Uncut Sheets Offered

For those of you who have everything the BEP is now offering the new \$100 bills in uncut sheets of 4, 8, and 16 subject sheet. These notes are printed in 32 subject sheets but presently only partial sheets are offered. I believe that this is the first time in history that \$100 note sheets have been offered. Pricing ranges from \$480 to \$1,776. These may turn out to be a good investment as most people probably wont spring for the \$1,776 price tag opting for the less expensive lower denomination sheets. Are you going to be the first one on your block to own one?




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published in next months
Mint Master.



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AU 1794 Silver Dollars for \$15.00 each while they last!!!!



'PRIZES' AND 'BUY OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH

Promptness

1963-D BU Franklin Half

Member

1921 Morgan Dollar

Youth

1953B \$2 Red Seal Note

GENERAL PRIZES

2010 Silver Eagle
1974 Proof Set
1995 Proof Set
1861 Guatemala Gold 4 Reales
1935A WWII Hawaii Emergency Currency
Silver Certificate
1987 Mint Set
1992 White House Commemorative Proof Dollar - previously loved

Washington Quarter Grab Bag containing

1941 Washington Quarter UNC
1981 P Washington Quarter UNC
1981 D Washington Quarter UNC
1976 P Washington Quarter UNC

U.S. Nickel Grab Bag containing

1910 V Nickel XF
1936 S Buffalo Nickel XF
1957 D Jefferson Nickel UNC
2013 S Jefferson Nickel Proof

Canada & Mexico Banknote set

1989 D Congressional Commemorative Half UNC
1989 S Congressional Commemorative Half Proof
1934(L) \$20 Federal Reserve Note
1966, 1967, 1968 Kennedy Half Set 40% silver
1944 British Half Crown
2013 British One Pound 2-Coin set
1944 P Walker Half VF
1945 D Walker Half VF

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Bruce Griggs – MM Email
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YOUNG NUMISMATISTS

REVISITING SOME BASIC GUIDELINES FOR EFFICIENTLY AND CONSISTANTLY GRADING NUMISMATIC ITEMS

Since we have looked at coin cleaning the last two months and since it has been almost two years since we discussed the basics of grading numismatic items, I thought it would be timely to review some of the basics for effective and consistent evaluation and grading of coins, tokens, etc.

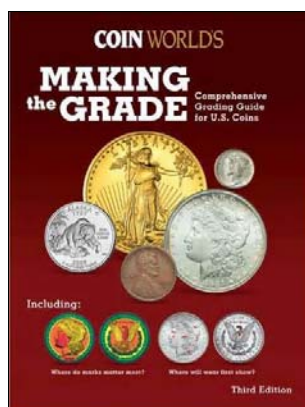
KNOWLEDGE IS KING:

Knowing and understanding the characteristics of the numismatic items you will be grading is absolutely essential and luckily for the numismatist there is a wealth of information available in books and on the internet to strengthen your knowledge base. The books available can provide very valuable information on what characteristics you can expect to find exhibited by an item based on when and where it was minted and are available for every type or series. Knowing specifics about things like strike, die, and planchet quality will significantly improve your ability to evaluate and assign a grade to an item. The actual evaluation and grading process will also be aided by convenient and ready access to a grading guide(s) such as *Photograde*, *Official A.N.A. Grading Standards for United States Coins*, *Coin World's Making the Grade*, *The Official Redbook*, and *the Cherrypicker's Guide*. Person-

ally, I use all of these when I'm grading. Bottom line is you will need to build a reference library and keep it current. Ready access to high resolution photos of professionally graded and encapsulated coins can eliminate the need to assemble an often recommended grading set. We'll discuss this subject more in an upcoming article.

DEVELOPING CONSISTEN-

CY: Besides your reference library, there are some evaluation/grading tools and conditions which must be present if

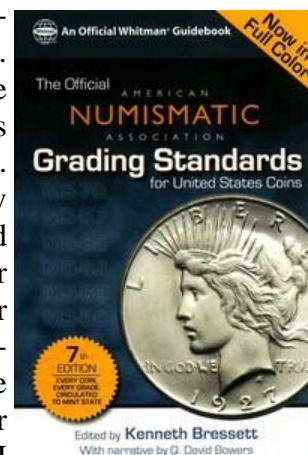


you want to be efficient and consistent in your efforts. Without question, you have to have reasonably good eyesight. For some, this may mean it's time for an eye exam and new corrective lenses. If you wear glasses, make sure they're clean and scratch free. It will make your grading process less fatiguing and more enjoyable. You will need to have one place in your home where you will perform all of your serious grading efforts that is comfortable, has reasonable working space and where you can control the light-

ing. With eyesight and location taken care of, you will need to have a magnifying glass of 3X to 5X magnification power.

The lens size is what works best for you. While many collectors and dealers prefer the smaller loupe size because they're easier to wear on a lanyard, I

prefer the larger 1.5" lens type that allows me to see the entire coin at one time. Higher magnification of 10X or higher might be needed if you're looking at repair or alteration. Next you will need a hooded lamp with preferably a 75 watt incandescent bulb which should be the only real source of light illuminating the item you're examining and grading. A 75W bulb gives plenty of light and does not create too much reflective activity on the coin's surface. Cotton gloves should be readily available for handling coins that you believe to be EF40 or above and you should have a soft padded tray on the work surface beneath the lamp in the area where you will be performing your visual evaluations. More to come on the basics of grading next month.



PHIL CLARK



Infinity Coins

Kevin Josephson

545 Shoup Ave Suite 108 A
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

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National Coin Week

Visit the ANA's web site 'Money.org' for details

National Coin Week



"Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

- President John. F. Kennedy

The 2014 National Coin Week will take place April 20-26. The theme will be: "Coin & Country: Celebrating Civic Service"

EXPANDED MINT MASTER BONUS ARTICLE

12 Caesars Gold Coins

Did you know that twelve Caesars ruled Rome? It is possible to collect a complete set of Roman gold coins depicting all and a silver set is also possible although still quite expensive. The twelve are listed at right and their coins shown below.

YEARS OF THEIR REIGN

Julius 44BC-14	Galba 69
Augustus 14-37	Otho 69
Tiberius 37-41	Vitellius 69-79
Caligula 41-54	Vespasian 79-81
Claudius 54-66	Titus 81-96
Nero 66-69	Domitian 96





PO Box 65054
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Northern Utah Coin Show

Don't forget to mark your calendars to
attend this years "Northern Utah Coin
Show."

This years show is a 3-Day event, Thurs-
day, Friday, and Saturday with the show
opening at 2 PM on Thursday.

It will be held at the same location as
last years show at the Davis Conference
Center in Layton.

COIN QUIZ ANSWERS -

1. C 2. A 3. B 4. D 5. B How many did you get right?

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e-mail utahcoinshow@gmail.com